

Robert T.
Matsui

Congressman
Fifth District, California



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 12, 2002

CONTACT: CODY HARRIS
(202) 225-7163/(202) 225-0564

GOP SOCIAL SECURITY "GUARANTEE CERTIFICATES" WOULD COST \$80 MILLION

WASHINGTON, DC – Republican proposals to print and mail guarantee certificates to all current and future Social Security beneficiaries would cost an astounding \$30 million in the first year, and an additional \$50 million over the next decade.

Responding to requests from the office of Congressman Robert Matsui (D-CA), Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) revised its original \$10 million estimate to include more realistic assumptions about the certificate plan. The money would be drawn from the Social Security Administration (SSA) budget.

According to the SSA, it costs an average of \$671 to process each disability claim. Consequently, for the same amount of money as the Republican proposal, 45,000 disability claims could be processed in the first year alone. After ten years, that number would reach 119,000 disabled workers.

"Republicans are apparently willing to sacrifice real people with disability claims in order to inoculate themselves politically before the November elections," said Matsui. "Right now, on average, disabled workers must wait a third of a year to have their initial claims processed. And this is the Republican response to their problem. Republicans are clearly more interested in protecting themselves politically than dealing with Social Security's challenges."

The Congressional Research Service has concluded that the certificates would confer no legal rights on the recipients. They would not constitute property rights, and future Congresses could not be bound by the certificates' content.

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